

NEWS RELEASE

*OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS*

*RONALD J. TENPAS
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY*

Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208, Telephone (618) 628-3700

For Immediate Release

NOVEMBER 18, 2005

Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on November 9, 2005, **RONALD D. BOND**, age 38, **KEITH A. KIMMEL**, age 44, **BERNARD K. BRUCE**, a/k/a “Kevin Bruce,” age 43, **KENNETH R. PHILLIPS**, age 48, and **PAMELA D. ROBINSON**, a/k/a “Pamela Rowden,” age 43, all of Murphysboro, Illinois, and **KENNETH R. ABBY**, age 56, of Cambria, Illinois, were indicted by a Federal Grand Jury sitting in Benton, Illinois, in a one-count second superseding indictment, charging them with conspiracy to manufacture 50 grams or more of methamphetamine. The indictment was unsealed on November 14, 2005, after all defendants were in custody. The violation took place between September 3, 2002, and September 20, 2005, in Jackson, Williamson, and Saline Counties. An indictment is a formal charge against a defendant. Under the law, a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge until proved guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of a jury.

The offense carries a penalty of between 5 and 40 years’ imprisonment, a fine of up to \$2,000,000, and a term of 4 years supervised release.

The investigation was conducted by the Jackson County Sheriff’s Office, Murphysboro Police Department, Drug Enforcement Administration, and United States Marshals Service pursuant to their participation in the Jackson County Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. The Harrisburg Police Department, Williamson County Sheriff’s Office, Zeigler Police Department and Southern Illinois Enforcement Group also assisted in the investigation.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson.